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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/671,688	09/28/2000	Naoki Inoue	SON-1900	7234

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EXAMINER

VENT, JAMIE J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/671,688

Applicant(s)

INOUE ET AL.

Examiner

Jamie Vent

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-7 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 and 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-3,5-7 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 10, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3; 5-7; and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagawa et al (EP 0 851 422) in view of Elberbaum et al (US 6,628,338) in view of McCutchen (US 6,141,034).

[claim 1]

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In regard to Claim 1 Nakagawa discloses an optical disc camcorder (Figure 1)

comprising:

- A base plate assembly (Figure 8 shows base plate);
- A rotary shaft (Figure 1 shows the rotary shaft 52);
- a camcorder main body having an internal sub-chassis (Figure 1 element 2 shows the camcorder main body as further described in Column 3 Lines 5-6 additionally as seen in Figure 8 wherein the base plate is attached to the sub-chassis of the camcorder main body and thereby meeting the limitation);
- wherein said base plate assembly is mounted on said sub-chassis (Figure 8 shows a base plate wherein it is mounted through attachment to a sub-chassis)
- wherein a weight is attached to a first portion of said base plate assembly so that the center of gravity of said base plate assembly is shifted towards the first portion (Figure 8 shows a the weight attached to the base plate for the shifting of the camcorder toward the center of gravity as further described in Column 7 Lines 49+ through Column 8 lines 1-20); however, fails to discloses
- a pair of rotary shafts wherein each of said rotary shafts is attached to the camcorder main body and individually attached to opposite ends of said sub-chassis along a longitudinal axis, and said base plate assembly is

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swing able attached along a longitudinal axis of said pair of rotary shaft so that said base plates rotates axially about each rotary shaft

- wherein the base plate assembly rotates about pair of axial shafts so that the base plate assembly is inclined a first direction when the camcorder main body is inclined a second direction and the first direction is a direction inverse to the second direction.

Elberbaum et al discloses a camera support system wherein rotary shafts are attached to the body of the camera at opposite ends of the base plate to allow for the camera to have a swinging motion as further seen in Figures 1 and 3 and described in Column 2 Lines 42+. The rotary shafts which attach the camera at opposite ends of the base plate allows for the camera to freely move in a tilting manner and thereby allowing the camera to have a greater range and usefulness. McCutchen discloses in Figure 7a-7c and 8 show a camcorder and a base plate wherein the camera is tilted and inclined in various directions. In Figure 12 the base plate assembly is shown along with the varying degrees the base plate can move in order to move the camcorder as further described in Column 15, 17 and 19. The base plate allows the camcorder to move in various directions as seen in Figure 10 that allows for the camcorder to be safely secure onto the base plate without hindering the ability for the camcorder to move effectively. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the camcorder system, as disclosed by Nakagawa, and incorporate rotary shafts to allow for movement of the camera, as disclosed by Elberbaum et al, and

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further incorporate a base plate that allows for the camcorder to move inverse directions from the face plate, as disclosed by McCutchen.

[claim 2]

In regard to Claim 2, Nakagawa, discloses an optical disc camcorder comprising a locking mechanism to secure the base plate assembly to the optical disc camcorder is shown as an objective lens (Figures 1 and 8 show the locking mechanism that is further described in Column 7 Lines 57-58).

[claim 3]

In regard to Claim 3, Nakagawa, discloses a stopper means for restricting the range of movement of the base plate and absorbing shock is shown in fig.8 as a focusing coil and tracking coil by way of the magnetic circuit that is formed which is able to restrict movement (Column 8 Lines 3-20 describe the restricting the range of the base plate as further seen in Figure 8 wherein the focusing coil 54a and tracking coil 55a restrict the movement).

[claim 5]

In regard to Claim 5, Nakagawa discloses a system as previously discussed in independent Claim 1, with the additional limitation of the optical disc is further provided with a skew sensor for detecting skew and a skew correcting mechanism for rotating said sub-base in an axial direction about each rotary axial shaft (Figure 8 shows the skew sensor and focusing coil (54a) wherein adjustments are made by the focusing coil as further described in Column 8 Lines 1-20).

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[claim 6]

In regard to Claim 6, Nakagawa discloses a system comprising a rotary shaft for correcting skew at the end point of said turn table (Figure 8 shows the guide shaft (39_ which is used to correct skew as further described in Column 7 Lines 1-18).

[claim 7]

In regard to Claim 7, Nakagawa discloses an optical disc camcorder where the skew correcting mechanism controls a position of said optical pickup system so as not to come into contact with an optical disc (Column 7 Lines 1-18 describes the position that is shown of the optical pick up system which controlled so as to not come into contact with an optical disc, which is considered a non- contact state).

[claim 9]

In regard to Claim 9, Nakagawa discloses an optical camcorder, as recited in Claim 1, with additional limitation of a first portion of the base plate assembly is located below said pair of rotary shafts so that the base plate assembly freely rotates about the pair of rotary shafts to preserve a constant posture based on the position of the center of gravity of the base plate assembly relative to said pair of rotary shafts (Column 1 Lines 47+ describes the free movements of the rotary shafts that allows constant movement of the camera and thereby meets the limitation.)

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Ritchey (US 5,495,756).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamie Vent whose telephone number is 571-272-7384. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jamie Vent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'THAI Q. TRAN', is written over a horizontal line.

THAI Q. TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600